22 May 2014

College Principal's Message

"All our dreams come true if we have the courage to pursue them." Walt Disney

In less than two weeks’ time, our Stretton ‘dream’ of creating our first ever College Musical will eventuate and be realized at the Logan Entertainment Centre. And what a journey this dream has taken us along. As a school Principal, of all the things I’ve ever done, the most vital has been co-ordinating and leading those who work with me and aiming and aligning their efforts towards a certain goal. This can only happen when those people share the vision, engage with the dream, and then are prepared to work as a team to ensure the magic happens! We hope that when the curtains open on our inaugural musical, The Little Shop of Horrors, there will be a full house supporting our students from P-12 and the devoted, talented and enthusiastic staff who have given up hundreds of hours of personal and family time, to ensure Little Shop is a Stretton reality. The Arts is well and truly alive and thriving at Stretton and has the capacity to unify people in a way that nothing else does!

Part of our Stretton experience as a high performing College is to inculcate the enterprise and entrepreneurialism that takes ideas into actions. We want our students to leave Stretton with a desire and aptitude to influence what their future world can become. We want to equip them with the skills to participate, to innovate, to lead – and we want them to ‘stay the course’ and get things done! It is important that we provide our students with a far-reaching education which values the Arts. We want them to have a sense of belonging to the world around them, and the confidence that this is their stage, and that they have something to offer and a part to play on this stage. Many of our students who are involved in this year’s Musical will have participated in an infinitely enriching experience. They will have gained many benefits – both educational and social, and in fact, it’s almost impossible to have one without the other. I love seeing the high level of performance skills that students are able to achieve when challenged. This is why we have a Musical! Students and staff have committed themselves to long-term rehearsals and performances for both social and creative reasons.

We understand that not all children are innately talented performers, but the fact that they are serious about pursuing a role or participating in a school musical is deeply rewarding on a personal and whole-College level. The backstage crew have also gained a whole new range of skills. They have learnt manual skills to start with, which gives them the ability and purpose to participate in a group creative process. Their tasks provide them with an environment in which self-discipline is paramount. It also builds a tolerance of theatre, which is probably the oldest form of individual and group expression.

There can be no doubt that the performing arts builds confidence in students and adds weight to their faith and belief in themselves and their ability to achieve. They come to appreciate that their academic lives, however vital, are not the sole purpose for being at school. Students see for themselves that their lives can accommodate far more than they would ever have thought possible. They have to learn time management, personal discipline and resilience. This affects the way their approach their studies. There is no correlation at all that there is a detrimental effect on academic results; indeed, the opposite is true.

I’m sure that all of our wonderful staff who have been involved in creating our first Musical have achieved a great sense of achievement with this production. The process of nurturing students through a range of experiences associated with Little Shop of Horrors will remain deeply satisfying for them. The greatest satisfaction for teachers will be seeing the delight on the students’ faces when they suddenly find the joy and thrill from belonging to the greatest team sport – performance! They will be walking tall for a long time afterwards. There is great dramatic power generated when all the elements of a stage musical are carefully brought together into one statement.

The Arts communicate and speak to us in ways that enhance our lives. We will continue to find a place for arts programs, partnerships and whole of College Musicals and events, not only for what it teaches students about the Arts, but for what it teaches us all about the world we live in!
Congratulations to all staff and students involved in our inaugural College Musical. May you always treasure these golden moments! I’m so very proud of your achievement.

Until next time,

Jan Maresca
Executive Principal.

Associate Principal News

**CAPTAINS IN THE COMMUNITY**

On Friday May 16, the College Captains attended the Calamvale Business Network Breakfast and impressed the local business people with their community mindedness. The Captains took the opportunity to expand on the ways students are supporting charities and their Blood Drive which sees groups of students donate blood every week.

They also spoke about their mystery bus tour held as a drug and alcohol free alternative to post formal parties and their desire to see all students involved in this activity this year. Nearly all Year 12 Students have participated in previous years. The Captains are seeking donations to help lower the cost of this activity to increase the chances of the mystery bus tour occurring again in 2014.

**P-12 SCHOOLS VISIT OUR COLLEGE**

We were very pleased to be able to host the South East corner meeting for P-12 schools on Friday May 16. Staff from a number of other P-12 schools joined us for a discussion about what makes their school and P-12 schools in particular unique. We then enjoyed hearing from the Deputy Director General State Schooling who shared her insights and answered questions. It was a positive afternoon for us as a College with all the visiting schools affirming what we are doing with and for our students, and complimenting the students and the facilities.

**HIGH ACHIEVERS’ PROGRAM**

On Wednesday night we launch the Karawatha High Achievers’ Program in our Gowan Hall. Our Year 6 lighthouse class and eight Year 11 students will be involved in the program. Running across the next nine weeks students from six other schools will join ours on Wednesday afternoons to extend their talents in Maths, Science, Writing and Instrumental Music. A selected few will develop a TED talk to present at the University of Queensland in a Queensland first school led TEDx event. The Year 11 students will mentor the Year 6 students through their TEDx project and have already completed some training to assist them to do this.

Our talented staff from both campuses will lead each section of the program. We are also fortunate to have Mighty Minds, University of Queensland and Queensland Academies as partners for this inaugural year of the program.

**Illaweea Campus Talk and Tour**

Parents of Gowan students are invited to join the administration of the Illaweea campus for the

**Illaweea Campus Tour and Talk**

**Tuesday 27 May**

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Join us to find out more about the learning and opportunities offered on the Illaweea Campus. Experience the campus ‘in action’ and have your questions answered.

For catering purposes, please RSVP by 11:00 am Monday 19 May to the Illaweea office 3723 0222

Geoff Latta
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

**Illaweea Principal News**

**NAPLAN CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to all the students in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 who participated in the NAPLAN tests last week. We appreciate the efforts of everyone in making the week run so smoothly. Well done to all the students for staying focused during the tests. We are very proud of the standard of teaching in all of our year levels and feel very confident that the students were confident and well prepared for these tests. Every year our teachers and students excel and improve on the previous year’s results so we have high hopes again this year!

**JUNIOR SECONDARY IN STATE HIGH SCHOOLS**

As you may already be aware, in 2015 Year 7 will become the first year of secondary school in Queensland. The move represents a major reform to education and will benefit students at all Queensland schools. Students entering Year 7 in 2015 will be in their eighth year of schooling and the move follows the successful introduction of a Prep year. The move also brings Queensland in line with most other states and territories. What does this mean for Stretton State College? The answer is very little. We have been educating Year 7’s as part of our secondary campus for the past seven years, and would like to think that we are somewhat ‘experts’ in this area. In fact, we have been approached by many schools requesting our assistance with this change in secondary schooling. Junior Secondary Peer Review: The College recently had an external audit of our current practices in regards to Junior Secondary. This review/audit ensures that we are meeting the Statement of Expectations set out by Education Queensland. Obviously we excelled in this audit; but it was a very rewarding experience to share our strengths and areas for further development with our
colleagues around one of the most significant changes in the educational landscape in decades.

A REMINDER ABOUT OUR POLICY IF STUDENTS NEED TO LEAVE EARLY/SIGN OUT:

If students have an appointment during the day for something that cannot be scheduled for out-of-school hours or have to leave school during the day, then parents/guardians must:

- Write a note or contact the school office on 3723 0222, providing all details regarding the appointment.
- This note needs to be presented to the office by 8.45am, so that the details can be recorded and a leave pass issued.

Please note: our internal PA system is for emergencies only and cannot be used to pass on messages, or for the collection of students out of class or playground; day to day matters such as where to collect students need to be discussed prior to students arriving at the school in the morning.

A REMINDER ABOUT OUR SKATEBOARD/SCOOTER POLICY

Students who ride a skateboard or scooter to school are responsible for securing this item in the bike racks provided at the College; teachers and office staff are not responsible for storing these items throughout the day. Students must not ride bicycles, scooters or skateboards in the school grounds at any time. Consequences for a breach of these rules will occur if necessary. The College can accept no responsibility for damage or loss.

A REMINDER ABOUT OUR SICK BAY POLICY

If a student becomes ill or sustains an injury during the day:

- Students are to report illness/injury to the class teacher who will sign their diary to report to the office.

During lunch breaks:

- Students are to report to the office immediately where simple care and first aid will be administered if required.
- Parents will be contacted and asked to collect students if they are not feeling better after a period of 10 minutes or so.

Students must not contact parents/guardians via mobile phones directly – these calls will be made by office staff once students have been admitted to Sick Bay.

Michael West
Principal – Illaweena Campus

Gowan Principal News

SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES HERE AT STRETTON

As I was making a list of all of the extra-curricular activities available to students at Stretton, I felt like I was running out of space on the page. Great schools offer so much more than the academic teaching of mathematical skills, reading and spelling. They do those particularly well, but they know that to truly educate the whole child, they have to engage them in a range of activities within the classroom that will challenge them and excite them, and they have to offer them extra-curricular activities that will allow them to pursue their individual passions. We encourage you to support your son or daughter to get involved in some of the activities that are available to them, at various times throughout the year. Our newsletter will keep you up to date on what is available, including:

- School Arts programs – choral groups; School Musical; dance groups; instrumental music
- Chess Program
- School Sports programs – Stinger Sports, Active After School Sport; Roar Soccer; AFL
- Maths Challenge; Optiminds; Days of Excellence, etc.

Last week I had the pleasure of watching many of our athletes compete at the District Cross Country and I will say that not only was I proud of their achievements on the track, but I was very proud to get such positive feedback from parents and staff from other schools about the sportsmanship and Stretton SPIRIT. Great work team.

GOWAN CAR PARK

Many of you will have seen the recent changes to the Gowan driveways and car parks. Please be aware of the following changes that are in place from now on.

- Two minute maximum drop off and pick up lane has now been established in the lane closest to the school gate. Drivers are required to drive to the very front position and to stand for no longer than 2 minutes. Should your child not be visible to you within these two minutes, you are required to drive on and either park your car in the allocated spaces or re-enter the drop off lane. (Please note: the two minute maximum time will be enforced by BCC and OPS and fines will be given for breach of this). School staff will be calling the family name from the entrance of the driveway so that students know to move directly to your car – please remember to make your visor sign visible.
- Car parks have now been created in the second lane. There are no time restrictions on these car parks. Please ensure that you park within the lines so that we can use the maximum spaces.
- We are still working with the Brisbane City Council and Queensland Police to further improve our car park systems and thank members of the community for their suggestions. To avoid fines from these parties please avoid the following that will be enforced:
  - Do not use mobile phones (including texting or checking social media) whilst in the driveways or drop off/pick up lane.
  - Do not double park or allow students or parents to enter /exit vehicle outside of allocated spaces.

HERE AT STRETTON
• Have children enter/exit car from curb side only.
• Do not leave a child under 12 years of age unattended in a car for any length of time.
• Please consider the following suggestions that may reduce the congestion and therefore stress.
• Park your car in the local streets and walk the short distance to the school.
• Do not arrive to school before 2.50 pm and consider coming a little later if you have older students who will be safely supervised until 3.15 pm.

A final reminder that parents are not permitted to enter the staff car park near the Administration Building of Gowan between the hours of 7.30 am and 4.30 pm – this includes parents dropping off and picking up from Helping Hands.

We will continue to work with our Stretton Community to ensure the safety of our precious students and families. Please be considerate in all that you say and do and model the Stretton Spirit to your children.

BEFORE SCHOOL

A reminder to parents/carers that students who arrive before 8.00am on any morning will not be supervised and will be required to attend the Outside School Hours Care facility that we have here on Gowan. Helping Hands offers a fantastic before and after school service for parents who require care for their children outside of our school hours. We will be contacting the parents of students who arrive at school before 8.00am as we need to ensure the safety and wellbeing of these children.

FINAL MESSAGE

I would like to personally publically acknowledge the brilliant leadership of Ms Cartia Balladone who, as you know, obtained a promotional position at Robertson SS. I know by the significant amount of messages, gifts and visits, that you join me in thanking Cartia for all that she has done over the past 7 years at Stretton. We wish her the very best in her future.

We also farewell Ms Lyndal Murray who has been our Head of Special Education Services this year. Lyndal has made a positive impact on our school and supported our students wonderfully. Again, I wish Lyndal every success in her future endeavours.

I would like to welcome Ms Lisa Tonscheck as our Acting Deputy Principal. Ms Tonscheck comes with a wealth of knowledge and is a very experienced educational leader. Please drop in and introduce yourself and make her feel very welcome.

Have a wonderful week. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the very first Stretton State College musical.

Mrs Kym Amor
Gowan Campus Principal

Senior Secondary Deputy Principal News

MAXIMISING THE OP

As I sat in on the last Master Class session for our Year 12 OP students I couldn’t help recalling my own senior year and the anxious, stressful roller-coaster ride that it was. This morning on assembly I congratulated those attending the late afternoon session for finding the time to ensure that they are taking up every opportunity to hone their skills for their subjects as well as their QCS result. As a College we have provided a multi-layered number of events and sessions to maximise our Seniors’ chances of the very best OP result. Our students have very busy lives and I know that many things pull at their time, however all of our Seniors should be strongly encouraged to attend these sessions and prioritise them in their schedules.

These include:

• Regular Master Class sessions from Mighty Minds (Next session Thursday May 29th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm)
• OP Maximiser sessions every afternoon Ilwaeena Library until 5:00 pm.
• One on one OP maximiser interviews with their academic mentor
• Genre specific writing task tutorials Wednesdays period 4
• Numeracy specific QCS practice Tuesday Care classes

Drew Jell
SENIOR SECONDARY DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Junior Primary Deputy Principal News

Not many sleeps left until Under 8’s Day on Friday 23rd May. The Prep - 2 students and staff are very excited.

We have a wonderful morning planned for the students. Some of the activities include:

jumping castle, crown making, book swap, photo booth, face painting, biscuit making, pet rocks, shaving cream play, ALF and Surf Life Savers, to name a few.

We look forward to seeing as many families as possible come along and enjoy the fun of being Under 8.

A big thank you to Clair Manser and Morgan Bryant who have been this year’s Co-ordinators for the Under 8’s Day. They have done a fantastic job of leading the planning team.

The tuckshop has also planned a delicious menu for Under 8’s Day. You can order it on Flexischools. www.flexischools.com.au Celebrating Under 8’s 2014.

Our Under 8’s morning concludes at first break – 10.45 am. Students will return to their normal classes after their lunch break and have regular lessons for the rest of the day.
We look forward to seeing everyone on Friday.

Yours in the SPIRIT

Tam Dimech
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Senior Primary Deputy Principal News

I have received such a wonderful, rousing welcome to Stretton State College. As the new kid on the block, it has made my transition more relaxed, so thank you to all for that welcome.

I will take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Lisa Tonscheck and I have worked for Education Queensland for almost twenty years. I have taught in most year levels over my time in classrooms, most recently in a Teaching Principal role teaching Years 4 – 7 at Ashwell State School. On the pathway to leadership, I have worked as a Year Level Co-Ordinator, Curriculum Co-Ordinator, Head of Curriculum, Principal and Deputy Principal.

For the past two years I have been Deputy Principal at MacGregor State School. I come to you with a wealth of knowledge and experience, and I look forward to working with students, families and staff at Stretton State College.

Make sure that you come up and say hi! I will try to remember all your names. I am happy to talk about novels, movies, pets as well as all things school related.

Students with Disabilities

National Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

Dear Parents/Carers,

Collecting data on school students with disability helps teachers, principals and education authorities support the participation of students with disability in schooling on the same basis as students without disability.

All Australian Governments have agreed to work together on the annual collection of data on school students with disability.

In 2013, 10% of Queensland state schools participated in the first year of implementation. In 2014, two thirds of Queensland schools will participate and all schools will be collect data from 2015. Our school will be involved in the nationally consistent collection of data from this year.

Please be reassured that the Department will not provide on to another organisation any data that can identify an individual student. The only data being collected at the school level to be reported nationally is the:

- number of students in the school who are provided with an adjustment to address a disability;
- level of adjustments we provide for those students; and
- broad category of disability.

Consultation with parents is important not only for the data collection but also to ensure you aware of the adjustments being provided to support your child. We will therefore continue to consult with you.

While only data that cannot identify your child will be submitted outside of the Department, if you do not wish for your child’s details to be included, please let me know.

Information and fact sheets are available to help you make a decision from the:


Alternatively, if you have any queries about the collection or use of this data I encourage you to contact me directly.

Jan Maresca
Executive Principal

Student Wellbeing

GENERATION NEXT

“Generation Next’s goal is to increase public awareness and understanding about the key issues that children and young people face, and to promote and inspire tangible change, through the provision of authoritative, up to date, and practically-relevant information, strategies and advice. We reach out to young people, parents, teachers, and community and healthcare professionals alike. We want to lay the foundations for a more conscious and flourishing society”.


On Friday 9 May, Donna Riches (Guidance Officer – Gowan), Trevor Norman (Year 11 Coordinator), Georgia Chapman (Year 9 Coordinator), Julie Godfrey (Chaplain) and myself attended the Generation Next conference at the University of Queensland.

The day provided a great deal of information about how to support young people and their mental wellbeing.

Each member of staff who attended has written a synopsis on a speaker’s presentation. If you are keen to learn more please visit Generation Next’s website.

Happy reading!

Kate Niland
Guidance Officer - Illaweena

Cultivating Self-Esteem Rather than Ego

Presented by Dan Haesler

Cultivating a culture where everyone wins a prize, “The well done! You turned up society”.
Dan Haesler enlightened us on the dangers of giving every student a prize creating this culture where students do not know how to lose and therefore lack real world experiences and resilience. He spoke to us about the type of language that we use to communicate with children and what that praise means to them.

He uses the example: Adult: “wow you learned that fast! You’re so smart” - a child’s thought process in response to this is “if I don’t learn quickly, I’m not smart.” Or “That’s great you didn’t make any mistakes” – “mistakes need to be avoided at all costs”. Dan suggests that we should instead praise the effort, and be specific with our feedback. “You must have studied really hard to get this grade on your test” Or “I am proud of how hard you tried at your swim meet today”. Dan suggests we should praise the process rather than the result. This helps create a work in process or a growth mindset in our children allowing them to realise that no matter the result first or last /A or D there is always room for growth and improvement and that failure is not an endpoint.

“Student expectations have the largest impact of any intervention on student learning”.

Be mindful of what we praise
Be mindful of how we praise
Challenge students to do better- work harder- within reason
Encourage students to own the progress they make or the failures they encounter with their work, music, sport etc.

If you would like more information on this topic: danhaesler.com

Georgia Chapman - Year 9 coordinator

Beating the Bully:
How our natural responses to bullying make things worse and how Emotional Intelligence can help

Presented by Dr Justin Coulson (Happy Families, Inspired Parenting)

Our natural responses to children who exhibit difficult or bullying behaviour are to lecture, threaten, withdraw privileges, detain, suspend, punish. These are all “doing to” actions with a common theme of gaining power. Dr Coulson asked us to consider “What is it about making a child feel bad about himself/herself that works?” The answer is nothing.

Children don’t like to be fixed...they like to be understood. The greatest human need is to be understood (Stephen Covey). To speak to a child’s heart, we must know a child’s needs (Rosemary Wixom).

Dr Coulson suggests that we teach children Emotional Intelligence by emotion coaching. The emotion coaching process can be remembered using the acronym R.U.L.E.R:

- Recognise emotions are real
- Understand
- Label
- Experience the emotion
- Regulate

Rather than talking about why he/she did something you may like to ask:

- How do you think ___ felt when you did that?
- How are you feeling right now?
- What do you think we could do to fix this?

Donna Riches – Guidance Officer, Gowan

The Impact of Technology on the Developing Brain

Presented by Dr Philip Tan

The health effects of media in young people is difficult to validate because Researchers cannot ethically expose young people to violent gaming or excessive internet use just so they can see what happens. However, there are many studies that do provide evidence that strongly suggests the effect media can have on young people. Of the media forms there are some that show potentially harmful effects. Many forms of media create a state of anticipation/expectation which can elevate dopamine levels in the brain which keeps the users craving more; it drives stimulation seeking and dependency. Facebook requests, photo tags, friend updates, direct messages and chat all create anticipation.

There is increasing evidence of violent gaming/media increasing violent behaviour. Violent games activate the aggression centres in the brain. The suggestion that a young person will become more violent from playing games cannot be validated; however such games have been shown to have a strong desensitisation effect. In a person desensitised, violent behaviour is normalised and that person may be less likely to help someone in the face of violence.

Australia is the highest consumer of social media in the world. Doctors and Researchers have warned parents against allowing children who may have problems with self-esteem or depression from spending time on social networking sites. Co-rumination, or complaining with others, especially among teen girls regarding romantic upsets, tends to worsen moods and adds to disappointment. Children compare themselves to their friend tallies and photos of people looking happy, and comparatively feel worse.

Two-thirds of teen texters say they are more likely to use their cell phones to text their friends than talk to them by cell phone. Half of teens send 50 or more text messages a day, or 1,500 texts a month, and one in three send more than 100 texts a day, or more than 3,000 texts a month. A recent study published by Cranfield School of Management in the UK found language and learning deficits in students who used technology excessively. More than one-third (39.3 percent) of 11-18 year olds in the survey admitted that text shortcuts damaged the quality of their written English. Reading uninterrupted text (ie. a book) results in faster completion and better understanding than those who read text filled with hyperlinks and ads. Reading develops reflection, critical thinking, problem solving and vocabulary better than visual media.

So what can we do? Generally abstinence is not feasible or advisable. We can model the type of behaviour we expect from our children in the healthy use of technology. We can develop a new reduced schedule for using technology. We can use concrete things as prompts to help log off (timers, places to
go, things to do). Set clear and achievable goals to help develop new patterns of use and give a sense of control.

Technology is here for the long haul with benefits and risks – as a community we need to think critically through its uses. Technology use exists on a continuum from healthy to dysfunctional use; adults need to observe and guide behaviour. Some types of excessive technology use does interfere with learning, social relationships, work, mental health and possibly cognitive development.

Trev Norman, Yr 11 Coordinator

Sleepy, Grumpy Teenagers

Presented by Dr Chris Seton

Sleep deprivation is a major public health issue (US Health Authorities, 2011). In particular, young people are a concern. Results of lack of sleep can be sleepiness, impaired attentiveness, inability to retain new memories, compromised immune system, increase production of the stress hormone, cortisol and increase in hunger and therefore over eating. When we think of how young people are at school and trying to learn these conditions make learning a difficult task.

A major contributor to lack of sleep is the engagement with electronic technology. Dr Seton expressed real concern for the blue light emitted from a device. This light supresses the production of melatonin which delays sleep onset. This coupled with, Infomania, the anticipation of a return text, contributes to the reduction in sleep and in some cases no sleep.

Dr Seton described the correlation between lack of sleep & anxiety /depression as bidirectional. Depression and anxiety can cause sleep problems and sleep disturbances is a risk factor for the development of depression/anxiety. Obviously these 2 conditions can often co-exist which can lead to the mislabelling the condition.

For young people what remains important is significant consideration being given to Sleep Hygiene. This means optimising the bedroom environment. For example:-

- Create a predictable routine – warm shower, teeth brushing and then bed.
- As much as the young person can have a well-made clean bed
- No electronic equipment 1 hour prior to bed

Dr Seton provided much food for thought and it made me realise the importance of seeing sleeping like any other healthy habit we ask of young people. It must be well established, clearly understood with these habits beginning when they are very young.

Kate Niland, Guidance Officer - Illawena

DATE CLAIMERS

There are several Open Days for Tertiary Institutions held during the year. Please refer below to links to the Tertiary Studies Expo and Tertiary Open Days for 2014. These Expos/Open Days hold a wealth of information for students who are defining their chosen pathway after Stretton.

http://www.tsxpo.org/

Little Shop of Horrors

TWO HUNDRED AND TWO long rehearsal hours, SIXTY TWO talented students, TWENTY TWO devoted staff, EIGHTEEN show stopping songs, TEN dazzling dancers, THREETEEN superb shows and ONE giant hungry green plant who is definitely no partridge in a pear tree!

Yes, it is finally here and it’s going to be BIGGER than hula hoops! But you will have to come and see the show to find out exactly what that means…….Our wonderfully talented and dedicated students (and staff) looking forward to putting on a great show and hoping you will be a part of our first Musical Production. After literally hundreds of hours we are ready and the countdown to Opening night is ON!

There are many, MANY “Thank-you’s” which we will get to after the event. Although at this point in time I need to acknowledge and thank one of our wonderful parents Mr Stuart Peace who has put countless hours into designing our Souvenir Musical Program. Mr Peace is also the master designer behind our Instrumental Music and Sporting logos and we simply cannot thank him enough!

A sample of the first page has been included in our newsletter and they will be available to purchase at the door, prior to and following each of the performances.

Tickets will also be available at the door prior to the performances although we would encourage you to book your tickets to secure your tickets and seating to avoid any disappointment.

Please follow the link in the newsletter to book and secure your seats.

Kate Niland, Guidance Officer - Illawena
Japanese Study Tour

International study tour programs offer valuable intracultural experiences for students of both countries. Relationships which develop as a result of school program integration, homestay and social activities provide exciting opportunities for our students to improve their foreign language skills and develop an awareness and understanding of other cultures.

Stretton State College is hosting a Japanese Study Tour for the period July 11th – 24th and we are looking for homestay families. If you would be interested in our homestay program or would like further information please contact Mrs Carolyn Zalewski Ph. 3723 033.

What’s happening in Senior Schooling?

You may ask what these students are doing.

- Some are organising the Senior Academic Folders. These folders store students individual tracking sheets; practice QCS test results; Student Connect bulletins.
- For the past three weeks the year 11 cohort has met to discuss senior pathways and reinforce the necessity of choosing a successful pathway.
- Some of our year 11 and 12 students work independently in the Senior Study Room or Library because they may study Japanese, Korean, Accounting, Geography through Brisbane School of Distance Education.
- Year 11 and 12 Certificate II in Workplace Practices students have been trialling and evaluating recipes for their small business ventures. The next step is producing, packaging and selling the products to students at school.

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Stretton State College will be hosting a Japanese Study Tour July 11th – 24th 2014.

International study tour programs offer valuable intracultural experiences for students of both countries. Relationships which develop as a result of school program integration, homestay and social activities provide exciting opportunities for our students to improve their foreign language skills and develop an awareness and understanding of other cultures.

Visiting students in turn develop an awareness and appreciation of our Australian lifestyle and culture. In addition to this our school views significant financial benefits which provide additional resources for the students at Stretton State College.

Homestay families need to provide the following:
- Full board in a clean and tidy household with adequate sleeping arrangements
- English needs to be the first language spoken at home
- Three meals a day as well as snacks
- Transport to and from school
- The homestay family is expected to maintain suitable supervision of the student in their care as if the students were their own children.
- All adult household members over the age of 15 years must obtain a blue card.

By hosting a visiting student this year you will have the opportunity to share your family life with a young person whose cultural experiences and perspectives are significantly different from your own. We hope your homestay experience will be rewarding and bring about gains in mutual understanding and learning for the benefit of both cultures.

If you are interested in hosting students please complete the form below and return to the school office.

Thank you,

Carolyn Zalewski
International Study Tour Coordinator

Name:
Address:
Day time contact No.:_______ Email address:_______
Stretton Students name:_______ Roll class:_______

P & C News

The new 2014 | 2015 Entertainment Memberships are here!

Celebrating 20 Years

The P&C sincerely appreciates the support the Stretton (and wider) Community has shown by purchasing their copy of their local Entertainment Book. Many have purchased the Brisbane & Sunshine Coast and Surrounds version, but we have also had sales in New South Wales for the Sydney version and sales of the Gold Coast & Hinterlands Region.
The link can still be passed onto friends and family here in Australia or in New Zealand, which the College will directly benefit from – again, until the end of May. BUY (SECURELY ONLINE) TODAY! http://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/227k913

Students will receive a note home this week about returning their Entertainment Book (if it is unwanted). However, families still wishing to purchase the Book can do so until the end of MAY.

MOTHERS DAY STALL

Sincere thanks goes out to Mrs Helena Cuthbert for the many hours spent sourcing the beautiful and unique gifts that your children purchased at this year’s Mothers’ Day Stall. The P&C Association would also like to extend their thanks to the volunteer Mums and Dads who assisted on both Stall Days: Jung, Rachel, Kerrie, Amanda, Carmel, Wendy, Carolyn, Stephen, Melanie, Damien, Jo, Chrissy and Helena.

This was a fantastic fundraising event, raising over $3000!

PARENT & STAFF SUGGESTION LETTER

It’s time now to have your say! Where would you like to see the P&C Association spend the money raised from the Mothers’ Day Stall? We want you to let us know where you think these funds could be best spent, for the benefit of your child or children, to improve your child’s learning or environment at the school. Perhaps you help out in the classroom – and you know there’s something missing there? Perhaps a comfy bean bag for the reading corner, a big fan in the Hall for the summer months? A chilled bubbler on the grounds? Whatever your suggestion, we’d like to hear from YOU!

So, to have your say – you need to print the Letter & Slip, fill in your suggestions, then return it to the office, or you can simply email your suggestions to us @ www.pande@strettonsc.eq.edu.au

Thank you for your support of our fundraising efforts. We look forward to receiving your suggestions.

P&C Executive

PS – Keep your eyes open around the Gowan Campus after May 31 – a change is coming!…..

10-12years District Cross Country Carnival 2014

On Friday 9th May Stretton was represented at the Sunnybank District Cross Country carnival by 43 of our top 10,11 and 12 year old runners.

Congratulations to William Sang in Year 7 who placed 2nd in his race and Faith King in Year 7 who placed 4th in her race as the only two Stretton students to make the Sunnybank District Cross Country team. Both students will compete at the Regional carnival on the 27th May. We wish both William and Faith the best of luck at Regionals.

I would also like to mention our other top performers from the day. Mack King in Year 5 narrowly missed out on a place in the District team but did qualify as a reserve runner in the team if called upon, as he placed 8th in his race. Keegan De-Klerk in year 7 placed 9th in the 12 year boy’s race and Bavan Atwal placed 12th in the 11 year boy’s race.

All runners at the carnival were also accumulating points and competing as a team in each age group. Congratulations to the Stretton 12 year old boys team who finished in 2nd place in their age group. The 12 year old boys’ team was represented by William Sang, Declan Lau, Keegan De-Klerk, Max Herbert, Nicolas Cotter, Ross Irvine, Kaiea Bridges and Ashton Lamont.

All students ran well on the day and showed great Stretton Spirit. Stretton placed 4th overall on the day which was a great effort.

Congratulations Stretton runners!!!

Ms Flores
PE Teacher and Sport Coordinator

Science News

Mooting Competition

On Friday, 2 May 2014 three Year 11 Stretton State College Legal Studies students, Ariana Murselovic, Jelena Aleksic and Cortney Morgan represented their school in the Bond University High School Legal Mooting Competition. Competing against three formidable opponents, Year 12 Legal Studies students from Brigidine All-Girls College, our girls acted for the Respondent in a simulated court case decided by two REAL judges.

The competition was held in a real court room in the Commonwealth Law Courts in Brisbane city. They were also able to meet the Judges who decided their case. After the moot, they went on a tour of the Supreme Court Library and were then able to watch some REAL criminal cases in the Supreme and District Courts.

The experience was not only extremely beneficial and eye opening, but moreover it presented a chance to further their public speaking skills. The school is extremely proud of their efforts.
Canteen News

WOW what a wonderful response to our new menu. The students have told us that they love the new items on the menu. The littlies on Gowan Campus are raving over the choices they have, and the Illaweena Students are spoilt for choice!

The Gowan families are really leading the way with online ordering through Flexischools, and we ask that parents of our Illaweena Students give it a go. This is a cashless system, and along with the reassurance of knowing what your child has eaten there is the guarantee of them receiving exactly what they want.

The service that is offered throughout our Canteens would not be possible without the wonderful staff we have at Stretton along with the endless volunteers, so please if you see one of the staff, say thanks – I know they would appreciate it.

Sharyn O’Brien
Business Services Manager

Uniform Shop

Thank you all for your patience at the Uniform Shop. Janet and her volunteers are working tirelessly to ensure that your student is in the correct uniform. Uniforms can be purchased through the online service; Flexischools, simply order online and collect from either the Illaweena Office or Uniform Shop. Attached is the uniform policy for you to refer to when ordering, along with a price list for easy reference.

Sharyn O’Brien
Business Services Manager

INSTRUCTIONAL MUSIC

EDUCATION QLD
INSTRUCTIONAL FANFARE

Congratulations to amazing young musicians who performed at Fanfare this week! Our Ensembles continue to reach new heights with the following outstanding results!

Percussion Ensemble - GOLD - Mrs Rosewarne
Intermediate Concert Band - GOLD - Mrs Rosewarne
Middle School Concert Band - GOLD - Mrs Rosewarne
Senior Concert Band - GOLD - Mrs Rosewarne
Big Band - SILVER - Mr Stewart

A special thank you to everyone who assisted throughout the day:
Mr Stewart and his stage crew, Mrs Millar, Mrs Blackman, Mr Seed and parents Mrs Stroud and Mrs Stevenson!

Laura Jean Family Portraits

Thank you to all the families who supported our Family Portrait Fundraiser. The weekend was a wonderful success with over $1200 raised for our Sydney Band Tour.

Thank you also to the many music parents who volunteered their time to assist throughout the weekend.

Winners of the Laura Jean Raffle are:

1st Prize - Family Portrait pack valued at $229 - Gai Harper Fellows
2nd Prize - Family Portrait pack valued at $229 - Caroline Stevens
3rd Prize - Double Movie Pass - Denichiuta
4th Prize - Double Movie Pass - Linda Anderson

Raffles

We are seeking items to be used as part of our IM raffles this year. If you or your business can donate an item (big or small), please contact Robyn Rosewarne or Brad Stewart.

Term 2 Date Claimers

30th & 31st May - Little Shop of Horrors Musical
25th June - Jazzin’ Up the Hall
June - Athletic Carnival BBQ’s

Band Performance Uniform

The Music Performance Uniform is compulsory for all ensemble performances and can be purchased through the College Uniform shop.

** Girls
- Band performance shirt
- Girls Stretton music slacks
- SSC black socks
- Formal black shoes
- Stretton music maroon scrunchie
- Stretton music maroon clips (optional)

** Boys
- Band performance shirt
- Boys Stretton music trousers
- SSC black socks
- Formal black shoes

Lessons and Band Rehearsals

As band rehearsals occur before and after school it is essential that the Band Director is notified of any student absence.

Please email or provide a note outlining any absence.

Students are to notify their instrumental teacher in advance if they are unable to attend their lesson due to an assessment.
If the instrumental teachers are given prior notice, often lesson
group times can be changed so all students can participate.

Staff email addresses for contact are:

Mrs Robyn Rosewarne - rrose42@eq.edu.au
Mr Brad Stewart - bstew25@eq.edu.au

Books For Babies

If you have had a baby recently please contact the Gowan
school office so that we can get your details and arrange a
parade time to present you and your baby a book pack.

Each new school community member receives a book pack
containing a story book for the newest member and a fantastic
book for Mum and Dad – Mem Fox “Reading Magic - How to
teach your child how to read before they start school.”

The Stretton State College P & C are extremely supportive of
this project and have again funded the program to run this year.
The value of reading to and with your children is of enormous
value to your child’s education.

Happy reading.

Karen Jeffrey
Books for Babies Co-Ordinator

Media News

Past student wins the ATOM Awards Audience
Choice!

For the past few weeks the ATOM Awards have been running
audience choice competitions from the 2013 IPAF ATOM
Awards.

The ATOM Awards are Australia’s leading film and media
awards for the education and industry sectors, spanning over
thirty diverse screen content categories including film,
television, animation, educational resources, games and new
media.

The audience choice competition offered students, teachers
and other interested individuals from all over the world a chance
to view and vote for their favourite finalist production in selected
student categories from last year’s awards.

Past student, Lachlan Pendragon won the Best Senior
Secondary Animation category in the audience choice
competition for his film ‘Fan Girl’. Lachlan will receive a DVD
pack courtesy of IP Awareness.

Lachlan was also the winner in the same category at the
Student Awards held in last year. To watch his film online, visit
the ATOM Awards website http://atomawards.org/ and click
on ‘2013 Awards’

The 2014 IP Awareness ATOM Awards are currently open and
include eight categories specifically for primary and secondary
students. Entries close at 5pm AEST on Friday 6 June.

To learn more about the 2014 IP Awareness ATOM Awards –
or to enter – please visit www.atomawards.org or email Mr
Norman (tnorm22@eq.edu.au)

Football Academy News

On Monday 12th May Stretton State
College’s Under 15 Boys and Girls Bill Turner
teams took on St Thomas More College.
This is an Australian wide schools knock out
competition. Our boys’ team got off to a
flying start beating St Thomas More convincingly 5-2. The girls’
team also had a solid win beating the St Thomas More girls
team 2-0. Congratulations to Courtney Black who scored a
cracking goal after a great solo effort dribbling past the St
Thomas More defence and drilling the ball into top corner.
Congratulations to both teams on a great start to the
competition. Stay tuned for further results as both teams now
take on Clairvaux Mackillop College.

Georgia Chapman
Football Coordinator

Illaweeena Sport News

DISTRICT PREMIERS AND SUMMER SEASON
WRAP UP

Summer season wrapped up a couple of weeks ago with our
final round against Parklands College. Stretton has a wonderful
season finishing Top 3 in most sports entered:

Boys

Year 9 basketball 3rd
Year 8 Basketball 2nd
Year 9 Volleyball 1st
Year 8 Cricket 2nd
Year 9 Touch 2nd
Open Cricket 1st

Girls

Year 9 Touch 3rd
Year 9 Basketball 3rd
Year 8 Touch 3rd

Congratulations to the Open Boys Cricket team and the Year
9 Boys Volleyball team for winning the district premiership this
year. Well done boys!!!

METRO FINALS - CRICKET

The Stretton State College Open Boys Cricket team took on
Indooroopilly State High School in the second round of Metro
Finals. SSC progressed straight through to the second round
as there was no opponent for our neighbouring district.
The day started well with our boys electing to bowl first. SSC’s attack was brutal dismissing Indooroopilly 10/120 after twenty-three overs, seven overs short of the allowed 30-over match. This score suggested it may have been a bowling friendly wicket.

This would not be the case as our batters destroyed their bowling attack, sending ball after ball to the boundary. Stretton passed their total and finished 2/126 off fifteen overs.

Congratulations to all boys in the team as well as Mr Ravenswood for coaching! A special mention goes to Bryce Bungay 67 not out and 4 wickets! Good Luck for the next round.

**DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY**

Karawatha District Cross Country was held on May the 6th at Riverdale Park Loganlea. A seventy strong Cross Country team represented Stretton State College and did us all proud!!! A big congratulations to all competitors for a wonderful day! We had four Age Champions: Alex Dean; AlmirBasinic; Chantelle Clarke and Robert Friend. Special mention to Declan Ryan and Megan Campbell with 3rd Placing and Alistair Douglas with a hard fought 2nd place. Overall we placed 4th which is our best result ever, finishing ahead of sporting powerhouses – Runcorn and Browns Plains!

Please see the list below of students making the district team and will compete at the Met West Cross Country:

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<td>Skye Takairangi</td>
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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcSa590IIGI

**Community Billboard**

**SBH WHEEL AND WALK FUN RUN FOR CHARITY**

The Wheel and Walk Fun Run starts and finishes at Captain Burke Park, Holman Street, Kangaroo Point (underneath the Story Bridge). You can park in nearby streets or think about catching the ferry from South Bank or the City to the Holman Street terminal.

When: Sunday 10th August 2014
Time: 9.00am - Registration
9.30am - Run begins after warm up with qualified instructors from Pure Health Clubs.
Distance: 5km or 2km short course
Contact: Kylie Harrison on 3844 4600

**PRIZES for Race Winners and Highest Fundraiser. Holidays and other great prizes to be won.

Entry forms available from our website - www.spinabifida.org
or enrol and fundraise online at http://www.everydayhero.com.au/event/wheelandwalk2014

**BLUE LIGHT DANCE PARTY**

Mount Gravatt Blue Light will be holding it’s next Blue Light Dance Party at 7pm on Friday the 6th of June, 2014 at Mt Gravatt PCYC, 90 Klumpp Road, Upper Mt Gravatt next to the Hibiscus Centre. The dance is for children aged between 7 and 14 years old. The dance finishes at 9.30pm and cost of entry is $7. Lucky door prizes including wireless Bluetooth speakers worth $200 to be won. The dance is fully supervised by police officers and current blue card holders. For more information, please contact Senior Constable Shane Stanley on 0427644702.**

**Student of the Week – Gowan Stretton Stars!**

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK TERM 2 WEEK 5 | STUDENT OF THE WEEK TERM 2 WEEK 4**

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